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503.30414C19

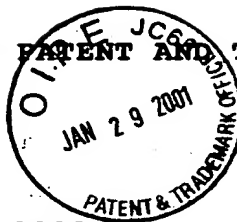
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/725,257

Filed: November 29, 2000

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR



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REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW PRIOR TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 29, 2001

Sir:

The undersigned notes that the above-identified application is a Continuing application of various prior applications, including prior application Serial No. 09/552,572, filed April 19, 2000. Noting Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 713.02, the undersigned respectfully requests an Interview in the above-identified application, prior to the first Office Action therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to schedule such Interview, in due course, at the convenience of the Examiner.

The Examiner is thanked in advance for complying with this request for Interview prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit

Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C19) and please credit
any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", is written over a horizontal line.

William I. Solomon

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WIS/slk
Enclosures